

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 079386
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:KWAUCHOPE:SM X20668
APPROVED BY AF/E:RPOST
S/S-0:JETHYDEN
AF: W C HARROP
AF/E:RGRIBBIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079386

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, SHUM, UG, GW

SUBJECT: UGANDA: FATE OF MARK ELIAS

REF: BONN 5028 (NOTAL)

1. THE EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT TO THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE THAT WHILE WE DEEPLY APPRECIATED AMBASSADOR FROEWIS' EFFORTS IN THE ELIAS CASE, AT NO TIME DID WE ADVOCATE THAT HE GO SO FAR AS TO CONTACT LT. COL. ITABUKA ON THE MATTER. WE ARE ACUTELY SENSITIVE TO THE ISSUES IN THIS CASE AND WOULD NOT WISH THE FRG EMBASSY TO PRESS THIS MATTER TO THE POINT THAT IT MIGHT JEOPARDIZE FRG INTERESTS IN UGANDA.

2. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT AN APPROACH BY VON
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BLOMBERG WOULD BE AN EFFECTIVE VEHICLE TO DETERMINE FATE OF ELIAS. FIRST, SHOULD VON BLOMBERG AGREE TO RAISE MATTER WITH AMIN IN CAIRO, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO FOLLOW-UP WITH AMIN. SECOND, AS VON BLOMBERG WILL BE ADDRESSING AMIN IN THE ROLE OF SUPPLICANT, HE WILL HAVE NO SPARE CHIPS TO PLAY TO PRESS FOR INFORMATION ON ELIAS. THIRD, SHOULD AMIN AGREE TO INQUIRE INTO THE

MATTER AND DETERMINES THAT ELIAS WAS KILLED BY HIS PEOPLE,
HE IS UNLIKELY TO RELEASE THIS INFORMATION AS IT UNDER-

MINES THE THRUST OF HIS PEACE AND RECONCILIATION
CA'PAIGN.

3. AMBASSADOR FROEWIS' CONVERSATIONS WITH FARID UDDIN
AHMED (BONN 3959) AND S.R. PATEL (BONN 4764) SEEM TO
REMOVE LAST SLIM HOPES THAT ELIAS IS ALIVE. DEPARTMENT
APPRECIATES FROEWIS' ENERGETIC ACTIVITY ON BEHALF ELIAS
FRIENDS AND FAMILY, BUT BELIEVES THAT FURTHER INQUIRY
IS LIKELY TO BE SIMILARLY FUTILE AT THIS TIME. COOPER

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